NEW YORK STATE LOCAL HISTORY
SOURCE LEAFLETS

PREPARED BY THE DIVISION OF
ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

VERRAZANO'S VOYAGE ALONG THE ATLANTIC COAST OF NORTH AMERICA

1524

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NOTE

These leaflets are intended for the boys and girls in our New York schools so that they may come to know something of the sources of the history which they study. It is hoped that the teachers, their pupils and others into whose hands they come will feel encouraged to make suggestions for similar selections, or even themselves prepare material and present it to the Division of Archives and History for editing and publication.

When issued, please send me, at no cost

Addenda and Errata
to
The Place-Names of Westchester County, New York

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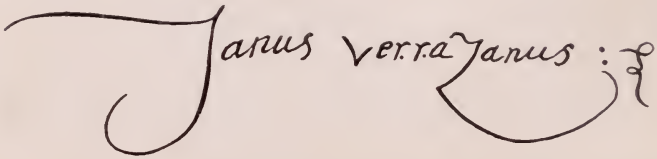


At one time a painting in oil of Verrazano was in the possession of his family. This portrait was engraved for a book entitled "*Uomini Illustri Toscani*" published in Florence in 1768. The above is from the engraving. The signature is from a letter signed by him. See De Costa, *Verrazano the Explorer*, p. 44.

Extract of a Letter from João da Silveira, Portuguese Ambassador in France, to John III, King of Portugal[1]

Sire:

[The letter first speaks of other matters and then goes on]

By what I hear, Maestro João Verazano, who is going on the discovery of Cathay, has not left up to this date, for want of opportunity and because of differences, I understand between himself and his men; and on this topic, though knowing of nothing positively, I have written my doubts in accompanying letters. I shall continue to doubt unless he take his departure.

. . . May our Lord prolong the life of your Highness many days and prosper the royal estate.

From Poessi the XXV of April 1523.

JOÃO DA SILVEIRA

Letter of Bernardo Carli to his Father about Verrazano's Voyage

In the name of God.

4 August, 1524.

Honorable Father:

Considering that when I was in the armada in Barbary at Garbich the news were advised you daily from the illustrious Sig. Don Hugo de Moncada, Captain General of the Caesarean Majesty in those barbarous parts, [of what] happened in contending with the Moors of that island; by which it appears you caused pleasure to many of our patrons and friends and congratulated yourselves on the victory achieved: so there being here news recently of the arrival of Captain Giovanni da Verrazzano, our Florentine, at the port of Dieppe, in Normandy, with his ship, the Dauphiny, with which he sailed from the Canary islands the end of last January, to go in search of new lands for this most serene crown of France, in which he displayed very noble and great courage in undertaking such an unknown voyage with only one ship, which was a caravel of hardly —— tons, with only fifty men, with the intention, if possible, of discovering Cathay, taking a course through other climates than those the Portuguese use in reaching it by the way of Calicut, but going towards the northwest and north, entirely believing that, although Ptolemy, Aristotle and other cosmographers affirm that no land is to be found towards such climates, he would find it there

[1] The headings used throughout this leaflet are put in by the editor. They do not appear in the manuscripts.

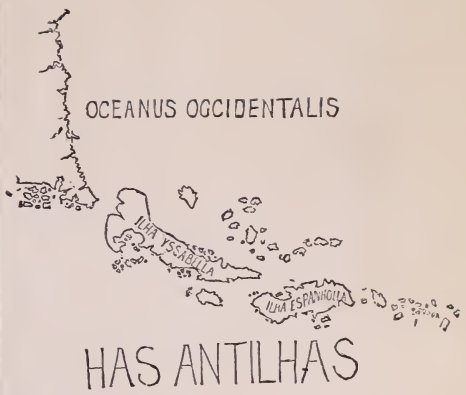
nevertheless. And so God has vouchsafed him as he distinctly describes in a letter of his to this S. M.; of which, in this, there is a copy. And for want of provisions, after many months spent in navigating, he asserts he was forced to return from that hemisphere into this, and having been seven months on the voyage, to show a very great and rapid passage, and to have achieved a wonderful and most extraordinary feat according to those who understand the seamanship of the world. Of which at the commencement of his said voyage there was an unfavorable opinion formed, and many thought there would be no more news either of him or of his vessel, but that he might be lost on that side of Norway, in consequence of the great ice which is in that northern ocean; but the Great God, as the Moor said, in order to give us every day proofs of his infinite power and show us how admirable is this worldly machine, has disclosed to him a breadth of land, as you will perceive, of such extent that according to good reasons, and the degrees of latitude and longitude, he alleges and shows it greater than Europe, Africa and a part of Asia; ergo mundus novus:[1] and this exclusive of what the Spaniards have discovered in several years in the west.

[Here follow some remarks on Magellan.]

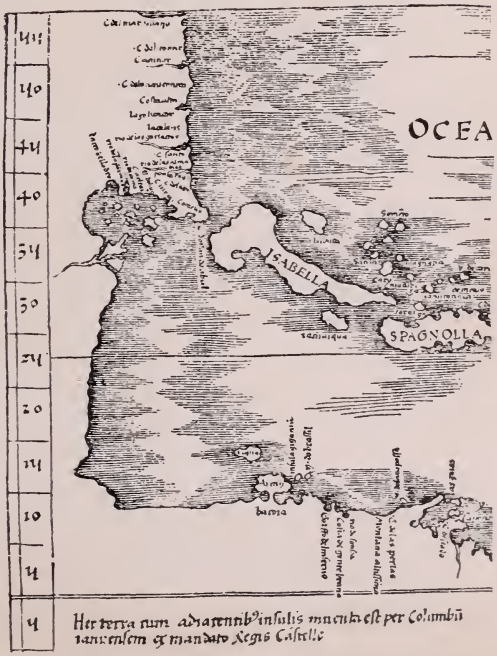
What this our captain has brought he does not state in this letter, except a very young man taken from those countries; but it is supposed he has brought a sample of gold which they do not value in those parts, and of drugs and other aromatic liquors for the purpose of conferring here with several merchants after he shall have been in the presence of the Most Serene Majesty. And at this hour he ought to be there, and from choice to come here shortly, as he is much desired in order to converse with him; the more so that he will find here the Majesty, the King, our Lord, who is expected here in three or four days. And we hope that S. M. will entrust him again with half a dozen good vessels and that he will return to the voyage. And if our Francisco Carli be returned from Cairo, advise him to go, at a venture, on the said voyage with him; and I believe they were acquainted at Cairo where he has been several years; and not only in Egypt and Syria, but almost through all the known world, and thence by reason of his merit is esteemed another Amerigo Vespucci; another Fernando Magellan and even more; and we hope that being provided with other good ships and vessels, well built and properly victualled, he may discover some profitable traffic and matter; and will, our

[1] Translation: "therefore a new world." *Ed.*

Map made by La Cosa 1500



Cantino map made in 1502



Map printed in 1513, called the Admiral's or Ptolemy's map

Maps made before the time of Verrazano, but showing no knowledge of the coast in the vicinity of New York. [From Winsor's *Narrative and Critical History*, II, p. 106, 108, 112.] Only sections are given here.

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Lord God granting him life, do honor to our country, in acquiring immortal fame and memory. And Alderotto Brunelleschi who started with him and by chance turning back was not willing to accompany him further, will, when he hears of this, be discontented. Nothing else now occurs to me, as I have advised you by others of what is necessary. I commend myself constantly to you, praying you to impart this to our friends, not forgetting Pierfrancesco Dagaghiano who in consequence of being an experienced person will take much pleasure in it, and commend me to him. Likewise to Rustichi, who will not be displeased, if he delight, as usual, in learning matters of cosmography. God guard you from all evil.

Your son.

BERNARDO CARLI, in Lyons

The History of the "Dauphine" and Its Voyage
1524

Selections from a Letter of the Navigator Giovanni da Verrazano to the King of France, Francis I, Patron and Director of the Exploration, about the Voyage which He Made along the Eastern Coast of the Present United States and during which He Entered the Harbor of the Present City of New York [1]

To King Francis I of France

After the tempest suffered in the northern parts, Most Serene King, I have not written to Your Majesty that which was experienced by the four ships which thou hadst sent by the Ocean to discover new lands, thinking that thou hadst been certified of everything—how we were compelled by the impetuous force of the winds to return to Brittany with only the distressed Normanda and Dauphine; where having made repairs, Your Majesty will have learned the voyage we made with them, armed for war, along the coasts of Spain; later, the new disposition with the Dauphine alone to continue the first navigation; having returned from which, I will tell Your Majesty what we have found.

From Madeira to the New World. Tempest in the Ocean

From the deserted rock near to the island of Madeira of the Most Serene King of Portgual [a] with the said Dauphine, on the XVII of

[1] Headings are put in by the editor.

[a] commencing 1524. [Lettered notes are the annotations found in the manuscript. *Ed.*]

the month of January past, with fifty men, furnished with victuals, arms and other instruments of war and naval munitions for eight months, we departed, sailing westward by an east-south-east wind blowing with sweet and gentle lenity. In XXV days we sailed eight hundred leagues. The XXIIII day of February[a] we suffered a tempest as severe as ever a man who has navigated suffered. From which, with the divine aid and the goodness of the ship, adapted by its glorious name and fortunate destiny to support the violent waves of the sea, we were delivered. We pursued our navigation continuously toward the west, holding somewhat to the north. In XXV more days we sailed more than 400 leagues where there appeared to us a new land never before seen by anyone, ancient or modern.

The Land First Seen in 34° North Latitude

At first it appeared rather low; having approached to within a quarter of a league, we perceived it, by the great fires built on the shore of the sea, to be inhabited. We saw that it ran toward the south; following it, to find some port where we could anchor with the ship and investigate its nature, in the space of fifty leagues we did not find a port or any place where it was possible to stay with the ship. And having seen that it trended continually to the south,[b] we decided to turn about to coast it toward the north, where we found the same place.[1] We anchored by the coast, sending the small boat to land. We had seen many people who came to the shore of the sea and seeing us approach fled, sometimes halting, turning back, looking with great admiration. Reassuring them by various signs, some of them approached, showing great delight at seeing us, marvelling at our clothes, figures and whiteness, making to us various signs where we could land more conveniently with the small boat, offering to us of their foods.

The First Landing and the First Indigenes

We were on land, and that which we were able to learn of their life and customs I will tell Your Majesty briefly:

They go nude of everything except that . . . they wear some skins of little animals like martens, a girdle of fine grass woven with

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[a] perhaps 16 hours.

[b] in order not to meet with the Spaniards.

[1] That is, to the place where he first came in sight of land — about 34 degrees north latitude. See later in this leaflet, p. 14.

VERRAZANO MONUMENT, NEW YORK
Battery Park, New York City

various tails of other animals which hang around the body as far as the knees; the rest nude; the head likewise. Some wear certain garlands of feathers of birds. They are of dark color not much unlike the Ethiopians, and hair black and thick, and not very long, which they tie together back on the head in the shape of a little tail. As for the symmetry of the man, they are well proportioned, of medium stature, and rather exceed us. In the breast they are broad, their arms well built, the legs and other parts of the body well put together. There is nothing else, except that they incline somewhat to broadness in the face; but not all, for in more we saw the face clear-cut. The eyes black and large, the glance intent and quick. They are not of much strength, in craftiness acute, agile and the greatest runners. From what we were able to learn by experience, they resemble in the last two respects the Orientals, and mostly those of the farthest Sinarian regions.[1] We were not able to learn with particularity of the life and customs of these people because of the shortness of the stay we made on land, on account there being few people and the ship anchored in the high sea.

. . .

[Here follows a description of the country and the climate in the vicinity of the Carolinas.]

A Sailor Among the Indigenes

We left this place continually skirting the coast, which we found turned to the east. Seeing everywhere great fires on account of the multitude of the inhabitants, anchoring there off the shore because it did not contain any port, on account of the need of water we sent the little boat to land with XXV men. Because of the very large waves which the sea cast up on the shore on account of the strand being open, it was not possible without danger of losing the boat for any one to land. We saw many people on shore making us various signs of friendship, motioning us ashore; among whom I saw a magnificent deed, as Your Majesty will hear.

Sending ashore by swimming one of our young sailors carrying to them some trinkets, such as little bells, mirrors, and other favors, and being approached within 4 fathoms of them, throwing the goods to them and wishing to turn back he was so tossed by the waves that almost half dead he was carried to the edge of the shore. Which having been seen, the people of the land ran immediately to him; taking him by the head, legs and arms, they carried him some

[1] Ramusio's text has the "regions of China."

distance away. Where, the youth, seeing himself carried in such way, stricken with terror, uttered very loud cries, which they did similarly in their language, showing him that he should not fear. After that, having placed him on the ground in the sun at the foot of a little hill, they performed great acts of admiration, regarding the whiteness of his flesh, examining him from head to foot. Taking off his shirt and hose, leaving him nude, they made a very large fire near him, placing him near the heat. Which having been seen, the sailors who had remained in the small boat, full of fear, as is their custom in every new case, thought that they wanted to roast him for food. His strength recovered, having remained with them awhile, he showed by signs that he desired to return to the ship; who, with the greatest kindness, holding him always close with various embraces, accompanied him as far as the sea, and in order to assure him more, extending themselves on a high hill, stood to watch him until he was in the boat. Which young man learned of this people that they are thus: of dark color like the others, the flesh more lustrous, of medium stature, the face more clear-cut, much more delicate of body and other members, of much less strength and even of intelligence. He saw nothing else.

. . .

[Here follows an annotation on the names which Verrazano gave to various places in this locality.]

Three Days in "Arcadia"[1]: a Boy Stolen

Having departed thence, following always the shore which turned somewhat toward the north, we came in the space of fifty leagues to another land which appeared much more beautiful and full of the largest forests. Anchoring at which, XX men going about two leagues inland, we found the people through fear had fled to the woods. Seeking everywhere, we met with a very old woman and a damsel of from XVIII to XX years, who through fear had hidden themselves in the grass. The old one had two little girls whom she carried on the shoulders, and back on the neck a boy, all of eight years of age. The young woman had as many of the same, but all girls. Having approached toward whom, they began to cry out, [and] the old woman to make signs to us that the men had fled to the woods. We gave them to eat of our viands, which she accepted with great gusto; the young woman refused everything and with anger threw it to the ground. We took the boy from the old

[1] Maryland or Delaware.

woman to carry to France, and wishing to take the young woman, who was of much beauty and of tall stature, it was not however possible, on account of the very great cries which she uttered, for us to conduct her to the sea. And having to pass through some woods, being far from the ship, we decided to release her, carrying only the boy.

The Textile Plants and the Grape: the Offering of Fire

. . .

[Here is given a description of the products found in the vicinity of Maryland and Delaware.]

Having remained in this place three days, anchored off the coast, we decided on account of the scarcity of ports to depart, always skirting the shore [a] toward the north and east, navigating by daylight and casting anchor at night.[b]

Land of Angouleme, Bay Saint Margherita (New York), River Vendome (Hudson), Island of Queen Luisa (Block Island?)

At the end of a hundred leagues we found a very agreeable situation located within two small prominent hills, in the midst of which flowed to the sea a very great river, which was deep within the mouth; and from the sea to the hills of that [place] with the rising of the tides, which we found eight feet, any laden ship might have passed. On account of being anchored off the coast in good shelter, we did not wish to adventure in without knowledge of the entrances. We were with the small boat, entering the said river to

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[a] which we baptized Arcadia on account of the beauty of the trees.

In Arcadia we found a man who came to the shore to see what people we were; who stood hesitating and ready for flight. Watching us, he did not permit himself to be approached. He was handsome, nude, with hair fastened back in a knot, of olive color.

We were, about XX [in number,] ashore and coaxing him he approached to within about two fathoms, showing a burning stick as if to offer us fire. And we made fire with powder and flint-and-steel and he trembled all over with terror and we fired a shot. He stopped as if astonished and prayed, worshipping like a monk, lifting his finger toward the sky, and pointing to the ship and the sea he appeared to bless us.

[b] we followed a coast very green with forests but without ports, and with some charming promontories and small rivers. We baptized the coast "di Lorenna" [1] on account of the Cardinal; the first promontory "Lanzone," the second "Bonivetto," [2] the largest river "Vandoma," [2] and a small mountain which stands by the sea "di S. Polo" [1] on account of the Count.

[1] See the map of Maillo in this leaflet.
[2] See the map by Verrazano's brother in this leaflet.

the land, which we found much populated. The people, almost like the others, clothed with the feathers of birds of various colors, came toward us joyfully, uttering very great exclamations of admiration, showing us where we could land with the boat more safely. We entered said river, within the land, about half a league, where we saw it made a very beautiful lake with a circuit of about three leagues; Through which they [the Indians] went, going from one and another part to the number of XXX of their little barges, with innumerable people, who passed from one shore and the other in order to see us. In an instant, as is wont to happen in navigation, a gale of unfavorable wind blowing in from the sea, we were forced to return to the ship, leaving the said land with much regret because of its commodiousness and beauty, thinking it was not without some properties of value, all of its hills showing indications of minerals.[a]

The anchor raised, sailing toward the east, as thus the land turned, having traveled LXXX leagues always in sight of it, we discovered an island triangular in form, distant ten leagues from the continent, in size like the island of Rhodes, full of hills, covered with trees, much populated [judging] by the continuous fires along all the surrounding shore which we saw they made. We baptized it in the name of your most illustrious mother[b]; not anchoring there on account of the unfavorableness of the weather.

"Refugio," the Very Beautiful Port (Newport), and Its Two Kings

We came to another land, distant from the island XV leagues, where we found a very beautiful port, and before we entered it, we saw about XX barges of the people who came with various cries of wonder round about the ship. Not approaching nearer than fifty paces, they halted, looking at the edifice [that is, the ship], our figures and clothes; then altogether they uttered a loud shout, signifying that they were glad. Having reassured them somewhat, imitating their gestures, they came so near that we threw them some little bells and mirrors and many trinkets, having taken which, regarding them with laughter, they entered the ship confidently. There were among them two Kings, of as good stature

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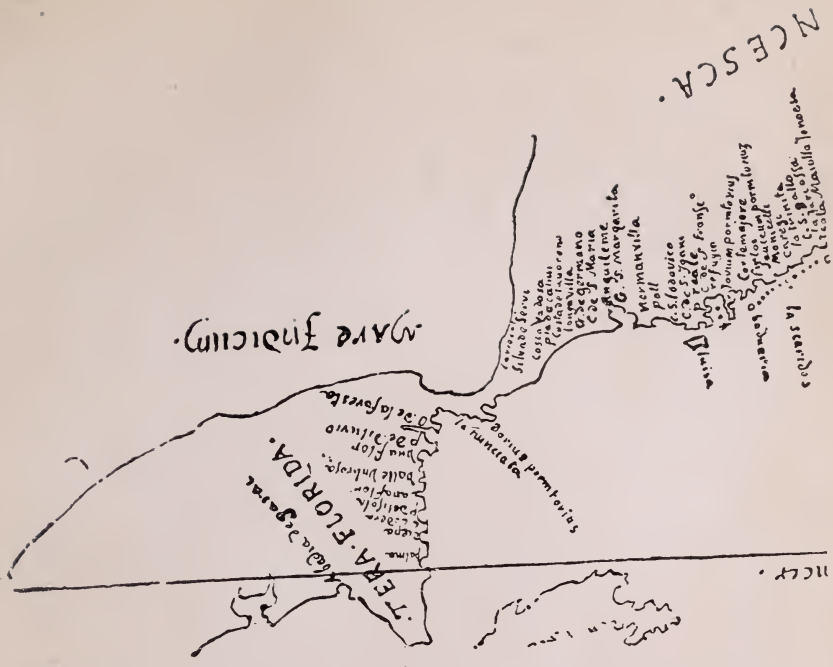
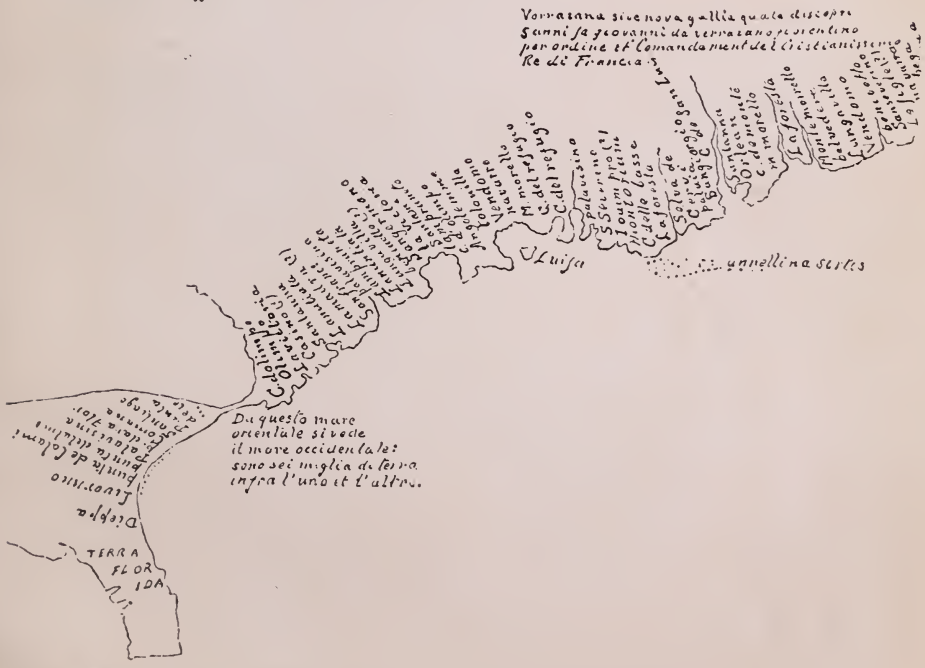
[a] Called Angôleme from the principality which thou attainedst in lesser fortune, and the bay which that land makes Santa Margarita from the name of the sister who vainquishes the other matrons of modesty and art.

[b] Aloysia.

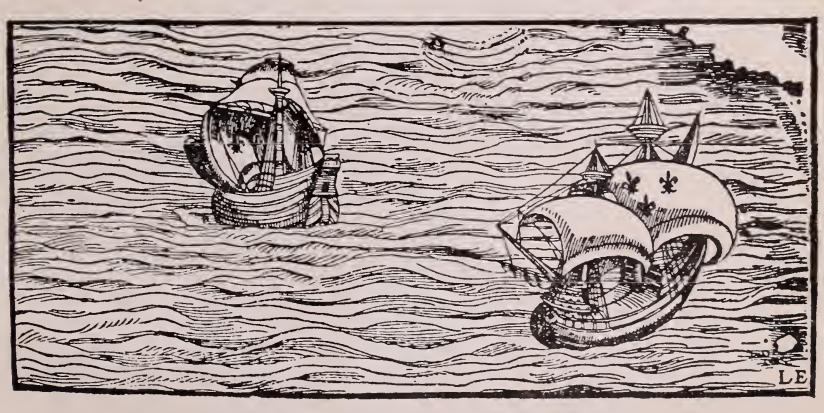


Map made by Maiollo in 1527, showing the use of names given by Verrazano in his letter. [From Winsor's *Narrative and Critical History*, IV, p. 39.] Only a section is given here.



Map made by Verrazano's brother, Hieronimo, in 1529, and based on the navigator's data. [From *Memorial History of New York*, I, p. 14.] Only a section is given here.

A drawing of Angoulême (New York harbor) and the Porto del Refugio (Newport harbor) based on French maps of the time that Ramusio published his *Navigationi et Viaggi*, 1556. Block island, named in the Verrazano letter (1524) "*Aloysia*," and in his brother's map (1529) and in the map of Maiollo (1527) "*Luisa*," has here been changed into "Buiso," or perhaps "Brisa"— evidently a corruption.



French ships in the sixteenth century. It was in a ship such as these that Verrazano came to New York harbor in 1524.

(Both of the above cuts are taken from Ramusio)

and form as it would be possible to tell; the first of about XXXX years, the other a young man of XXIIII years, the clothing of whom was thus: the older had on his nude body a skin of a stag, artificially adorned like a damask with various embroideries; the head bare, the hair turned back with various bands, at the neck a broad chain ornamented with many stones of diverse colors. The young man was almost in the same style. This is the most beautiful people and the most civilized in customs that we have found in this navigation. They excel us in size; they are of bronze color, some inclining more to whiteness, others to tawny color; the face sharply cut, the hair long and black, upon which they bestow the greatest study in adorning it; the eyes black and alert, the bearing kind and gentle, imitating much the ancient [manner]. Of the other parts of the body I will not speak to Your Majesty, having all the proportions which belong to every well built man. Their women are of the same beauty and charm; very graceful; of comely mien and agreeable aspect; of habits and behavior as much according to womanly custom as pertains to human nature; they go nude with only one skin of the stag embroidered like the men, and some wear on the arms very rich skins of the lynx; the head bare, with various arrangements of braids, composed of their own hair, which hang on one side and the other of the breast. Some use other hair-arrangements like the women of Egypt and of Syria use, and these are they who are advanced in age and are joined in wedlock. They have in the ears various pendent trinkets as the orientals are accustomed to have, the men like the women, among which we saw many plates wrought from copper, by whom it is prized more than gold; which, on account of its color, they do not esteem; wherefore among all it is held by them more worthless; on the other hand rating blue and red above any other. That which they were given by us which they most valued were little bells, blue crystals and other trinkets to place in the ears and on the neck. They did not prize cloth of silk and of gold nor even of other kind, nor did they care to have them; likewise with metals like steel and iron; for many times showing them our arms they did not conceive admiration for them nor ask for them, only examining the workmanship. They did the same with the mirrors; suddenly looking at them, they refused them laughing. They are very liberal, so much so that all which they have they give away. We formed a great friendship with them, and one day, before we had entered with the ship in the port, remaining on account of the unfavorable weather conditions anchored a league at sea, they

came in great numbers in their little barges to the ship, having painted and decked the face with various colors, showing to us it was evidence of good feeling, bringing to us of their food, signaling to us where for the safety of the ship we ought anchor in the port, continually accompanying us until we cast anchor there.

Fifteen Days among the Indigenes of "Refugio"

In which we remained XV days, supplying ourselves with many necessities; where every day the people came to see us at the ship, bringing their women, of whom they are very careful; because, entering the ship themselves, remaining a long time, they made their women stay in the barges, and however many entreaties we made them, offering to give them various things, it was not possible that they would allow them to enter the ship. And one of the two Kings[1] coming many times with the Queen and many attendants through their desire to see us, at first always stopped on a land distant from us two hundred paces, sending a boat to inform us of their coming, saying they wished to come to see the ship; doing this for a kind of safety. And when they had the response from us, they came quickly, and having stood awhile to look, hearing the noisy clamor of the sailor crowd, sent the Queen with her damsels in a very light barge to stay on a little island distant from us a quarter of a league; himself remaining a very long time, discoursing by signs and gestures of various fanciful ideas, examining all the equipments of the ship, asking especially their purpose, imitating our manners, tasting our foods, then parted from us benignantly. And one time, our people remaining two or three days on a little island near the ship for various necessities as is the custom of sailors, he came with seven or eight of his attendants, watching our operations, asking many times if we wished to remain there for a long time, offering us his every help. Then, shooting with the bow, running, he performed with his attendants various games to give us pleasure.

. . .

[Here follows a description of the land and the products in the vicinity of Newport. This is followed by a description of the coasts of Cape Cod and those to the north of that cape. Then follows a description of the Indians living along those coasts.]

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[1] When Roger Williams went to this same country over a century later he found that they had two chief kings or sachems, Canonicus and Miantonomo.

The Return

We departed, skirting the coast between east and north. . . .

[Here follows a description of a coast with many islands, probably the coast of Maine.]

Navigating between east-south-east and north-north-east, in the space of CL leagues we came near the land which the Britons found in the past, which stands in fifty degrees, and having consumed all our naval stores and victuals, having discovered six hundred leagues and more of new land, furnishing ourselves with water and wood, we decided to turn toward France.

The Indigenes Without Religion

How much religion these people whom we have found have, we were not able to learn, through lack of language, either by signs or any gestures. We consider they have neither religion nor law, nor know a First Cause or Author, nor worship the sky, stars, sun or moon or other planets, nor have any species of idolatry, nor did we learn that they make sacrifice or other prayers; nor that their villages had temples or churches for prayer.

We think they have not any creed and live in entire freedom, and everything proceeds from ignorance, for they are very easy to persuade, and did with as much enthusiasm and fervor as we all that which by us Christians they saw done concerning the divine worship.

The Longitude Covered: the Astronomical Diary

It remains for me to narrate to Your Majesty the order of said navigation as it bears on Cosmography. As I said above, departing from the aforesaid rocks which are situated in the extremity of the west known to the ancients, and in the meridian described by the Fortunate Islands, in latitude of XXXII degrees from the equator in our hemisphere, we sailed to the west, as far as the first land we found, MCC leagues, which contain 4,800 miles, counting four miles per league according to the maritime usage of naval experts: . . .

[Here follow in detail his nautical calculations.]

as I have noted all fully in a little book, together with the rising of the tide, in whatever region, at any time and hour, which I think would prove to be not useless for navigators.

I hope, for better speculation, to discuss it with Your Majesty.

The Object of the Voyage

My intention was in this navigation to reach Cathay and the extreme east of Asia, not expecting to find such an obstacle of new land as I found; and if for some reason I expected to find it, I thought it to be not without some strait to penetrate to the Eastern Ocean. And this has been the opinion of all the ancients, believing certainly our Western Ocean to be one with the Eastern Ocean of India without interposition of land. This Aristotle affirms, arguing by many similitudes, which opinion is very contrary to the moderns and according to experience untrue. Because the land has been found by them unknown to the ancients, another world with respect to the one which was known to them, it manifestly shows itself to be larger than our Europe and Africa and almost Asia, if we estimate correctly its size; as briefly I will give Your Majesty a little account of it.

The New Lands Form a Great Continent

. . .

[Here are put some more mathematical calculations.]

On the other hand, we, in this navigation made by order of Your Majesty beyond 92 degrees, etc. from said meridian toward the west to the land we first found in 34 degrees,[a] navigated 300 leagues between east and north and almost 400 leagues to the east uninterruptedly along the shore of the land, attaining to 54 degrees, leaving the land that the Lusitanians[b] found a long time ago, which they followed farther north as far as the Artic circle leaving the end unknown. Therefore the northern latitude joined with the southern, that is, 54 degrees with 66 degrees, make 120 degrees, more latitude than Africa and Europe contain, because joining the extremity of Europe which the limits of Norway form [and] which stand in 71 degrees with the extremity of Africa, which is the Promontory of Good Hope in 35 degrees, makes only 106 degrees, and if the terrestrial area of said land corresponds in extent to the seashore, there is no doubt it exceeds Asia in size.

Proportion between Land and Water in the Globe

In such way we find the globe of the Earth much larger than the ancients have held and contrary to the Mathematicians who have considered that relatively to the water it [the land] was smaller, which we have found by experience to be the reverse.

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[a] land near Temistitan.

[b] that is, Bacalaia, so called from a fish.

And as for the corporeal area of space, we judge there cannot be less land than water, as I hope on a better occasion by further reasoning to make clear and proven to Your Majesty.

The New World Is Isolated

All this land or New World which above I have described is connected together, not adjoining Asia nor Africa (which I know to a certainty); it may join Europe by Norway and Russia; which would be false according to the ancients, who declare almost all the north from the promontory of the Cimbri to have been navigated to the east, going around as far as the Caspian Sea itself they affirm. It would therefore remain included between two seas, between the Eastern and the Western, and that, accordingly (secondo) shuts off one from the other; because beyond 54 degrees from the equator toward the south it [the new land] extends toward the east for a long distance, and from the north passing 66 degrees it continues, turning toward the east, reaching as far as 70 degrees.

I hope we shall have better assurance of this, with the aid of Your Majesty, whom God Almighty prosper in everlasting glory, that we may see the perfect end of this our cosmography, and that the sacred word of the evangelist may be accomplished: "Their sound has gone out into all the earth," etc.

In the ship Dauphine, VIII of July, M. D. XXIIII.

Humble servant, JANUS VERAZANUS

To Leonardo Tedaldi or to Thomaso Sartini, merchants in Lyons. To be forwarded to Bonacorso Ruscellay.

NOTE

Beyond what is given in the sources above very little is known about Verrazano. It is conjectured that he was born in 1485 and that he was lost on a second voyage which he undertook in 1528. For a list of books about him, see Channing, Hart and Turner, *Guide to the Study of American History*, pages 249 and 250. For years there was a dispute as to the authenticity of the letter describing the voyage of the "Dauphine," but in 1909 a new copy with annotations was discovered in the Cellere palace in Rome. This settled the question in favor of the genuineness and Professor Alessandro Bacchiani of Rome published the new text along with an introduction in which the whole controversy was critically reviewed. Bacchiani's work was translated from Italian into English by Dr Edward Hagaman Hall of New York and published

in the Fifteenth Annual Report of the *American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society* (1910) under the title *Giovanni da Verrazzano and His Discoveries in North America.* It is from this text that the selections here given are taken.

The letter of da Silveira and that of Carli are taken from the translations of the texts published by H. C. Murphy in his *Voyage of Verrazzano,* pages 162–63 and 17, 18, 19 respectively. A correction is made in the Carli letter changing that writer's first name from Fernando as given by Murphy and others to Bernardo, a change which Bacchiani shows according to the manuscript should be made.

In making the selections from Verrazano's letter an attempt has been made to give those parts particularly applicable to New York and the coasts of Long Island sound. Incidents preceding the arrival in New York harbor, and such descriptions of Indian life as were as well applicable to the Indians in the vicinity of New York as elsewhere, have been given.